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towards first allotment and the balance quantity is allotted in the shape of North Indian coal towards the second allotment. If North Indian coal is not available, Singareni coal will be supplied."

11-30 a.m. MR. SPEAKER :—" Since we are not going to sit for another four days, I will ask the Hon. Ministers to give their answers to the subsequent questions, without allowing hon. Members to put supplementary questions."

Number of handlooms working in South Arcot.

*203 Q.—SRI K. KRISHNA RAO: Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether Government possess statistics showing—

(1) the number of handlooms working in South Arcot, Chittoor, Nellore and Chingleput districts;

(2) the number of such looms engaged in weaving cloth for export to overseas markets; and

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a decline in exports of the products of handlooms produced for overseas market and if so what steps the Government have taken to afford relief to those handloom weavers?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" (a) (1) The number of handlooms working in South Arcot, Chittoor, Nellore and Chingleput districts is as follows :—

Name of district.	Number of handlooms.
South Arcot	30,955
Chittoor	28,046
Nellore	29,098
Chingleput	48,059

" (2) The exact number of looms engaged in weaving cloth for export to overseas markets is not available. But it can be said that a major portion of the looms in these districts is engaged in the production of such exportable varieties of goods.

" (b) Yes, Sir. This Government and the Government of India are exploring the possibilities of expanding the overseas markets for these goods. This Government have also allowed larger supplies of yarn at cheaper rates to the producers of Madras Handkerchiefs in these districts which will enable them to sell their goods at cheaper and competitive rates. The Madras State Handloom Committee and some firms are also taking steps to open sales depots in West Africa to effect better sales of Madras Handkerchiefs in that country."

Irrigation works in Atmakur taluk.

*204 Q.—SRI G. C. KONDAYYA : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state the amount of money spent on the irrigation works in Atmakur taluk of Nellore district for the last 25 years?